

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

AGR-05 NASA-01 OES-03 ACDA-05 /070 W

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R 280655Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7085

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 0551

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EAID US MA

SUBJECT: CALL ON MAJOR SOJA

BEGIN SUMMARY: CALL ON INFLUENTIAL MAJOR SOJA USED TO INSURE HIS THOROUGH AWARENESS OF EXTENT OF U.S. ASSISTANCE POSSIBILITIES WHEN ISSUE OF AMOUNT OF NASA RENTAL PAYMENT ARISES IN MILITARY DIRECTORY. I FOUND SOJA ENTHUSIASTIC PROPONENT OF AID TO RURAL MASSES, WHICH ACCORDS NICELY WITH PRESENT U.S. GLOBAL ASSISTANCE OBJECTIVE. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING MY INITIAL CALL MARCH 27 ON MAJOR SOJA AS MEMBER OF MILITARY DIRECTORY AND MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT, I GAVE HIM COMPREHENSIVE BRIEFING ON U.S. AID AND CREDIT POSSIBILITIES WITHIN HIS FIELD OF ACTION. MY UNDERLYING POLITICAL PURPOSE WAS TO INSURE THAT, AS INFLUENTIAL MEMBER OF MILITARY DIRECTORY, SOJA IS THOROUGHLY AWARE OF EXTENT OF U.S. ASSISTANCE POSSIBILITIES WHEN DIRECTORY CONSIDERS ADEQUACY OF NASA RENTAL OFFER OF \$100,000 PER YEAR FROM 1973 ON.

2. CONSISTENT WITH HIS HISTORY AS PROTEGE OF LABE COLONEL RATSIMANDRAVA, SOJA PLACED STRONG EMPHASIS ON NECESSITY OF DEVELOPMENT AT LEVEL OF RURAL MASSES. THIS APPROACH FITS NICELY OF COURSE WITH CURRENT EMPHHASIS IN U.S. AID POLICY ON IMPROVEMENT OF LIVING CONDITIONS OF POOREST PEOPLE AT
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RURAL LEVEL.

3. SOJA ALSO STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF DEVELOPING SHELF OF PROJECTS TO HAVE READY AS AND WHEN FOREIGN ASSISTANCE OPPORTUNITIES EMERGE. IF HE IS SUCCESSFUL IN CARRYING OUT THIS STEP (AND HE IS COGNIZANT OF OBSTACLES BECAUSE, AS HE COMMENTED, THERE IS OFTEN RESISTANCE TO USING SCARCE RESOURCES FOR "STUDIES"), IT WILL REPRESENT MINOR REVOLUTION IN ITSELF IN MADAGASCAR.

4. SOJA TOOK SPECIFIC NOTES ON EACH OF ASSISTANCE POSSIBILITIES I DESCRIBED (WHICH WILL BE SPELLED OUT IN SUPPLEMENTARY AIRGRAM). I TOOK OPPORTUNITY ALSO TO BACK UP APPROACH EMBASSY HAD MADE TO SECRETARY GENERAL OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (TANANARIVE 0533) URGING EARLY SUBMISSION OF DATA ON RICE PRODUCTION, IMPORTS, ETC., REQUIRED FOR U.S. CONSIDERATION OF PL 480, TITLE I, RICE FOR MADAGASCAR.
MENDENHALL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, LEASES, TRACKING STATIONS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TANANA00551
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750109-0249
From: TANANARIVE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975034/aaaaadvu.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; RELEASED <27 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <12 DEC 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CALL ON MAJOR SOJA BEGIN SUMMARY: CALL ON INFLUENTIAL MAJOR SOJA USED TO INSURE
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, US, MA, NASA, (SOJA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006